

Sometimes things were unusual in GTMO



Weather is strange — On Sunday morning, Aug. 27, 'Ernesto' became the first hurricane of the Atlantic season with winds of 75 mph. At that point, the storm was located just south of Haiti tracking west northwest. Weather predictions had the eye of the storm crossing Cuba west of Guantanamo Bay, but indicated the base would still get heavy winds and rain from the storm. Not! But NAVSTA was prepared never the less. The digital sign in front of the Navy Exchange flashed base readiness conditions during the storm.

The Naval Station Command Duty Officer notified all base leadership, including NAVSTA department heads, U.S. Naval Hospital and Joint Task Force personnel that there was a noon meeting in the NAVSTA conference room, in Bulkeley Hall, to discuss preparations and base readiness for the approaching storm. Even though Ernesto fizzled out, NAVSTA was prepared.



Activities are strange — NAVSTA leadership, NEX and Commissary workers, cut loaves of fresh bread recently. The NEX Bread and Deli counter has been a great hit in GTMO. It's not on the barge but behind the counter. NEX Bakery/Deli officially opened on Oct. 11.



Circus was in town — Philip 'The King' Soloman dazzled the crowd with his flame-balancing act during the circus show. It had been 20 years since a circus performed at GTMO, until April 23. The Vamphear Circus performed to a packed audience during the two-day circus show with acts ranging from fire-eating, knife-tossing and an aerial artists.



Strange outfit — The traditional sending off a colleague or friend in GTMO is a special one. One day this past fall Ed Wilson showed up at Ferry Landing dressed like this, mainly so his friend would remember GTMO. We remember ED!

"I like nonsense — it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope... and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities, said Dr. Seuss, American Writer and Illustrator of Children's Books, 1904-1991.